

Functionally Equivalent Environmental Document for the Adoption of Renewable Electricity Standard



California Air Resources Board
Scoping Meeting and Workshop
April 5, 2010



Certified Regulatory Programs

- PRC Section 21080.5; CCR Sections 15250 - 15253
- Functionally equivalent to CEQA's EIR, ND, IS provisions
- Certified by the Natural Resources Agency
- ARB's regulatory programs to protect air quality (15252[d])
- FED accompanies ISOR and its public review



Understanding of the Renewable Electricity Standard

- ARB developing plausible scenarios to achieve 33% from renewable sources by 2020
- Applies to publicly-owned utilities, investor-owned utilities, and other load-serving entities
- Build on current RPS of 20% by 2010
- Coordination with CPUC, CEC, and CAISO
- ARB is quantifying environmental benefits relative to air quality and GHG emissions



Environmental Document

- Prepare Draft FED by late May
- Lead Agency is ARB, with appropriate coordination with CEC, CPUC, CAISO
- Project Considerations
 - Development of Alternatives/Plausible Scenarios
 - Use Checklist as a tool to scope out issue areas
 - CEQA Baseline
 - Out-of-State impacts
 - Mitigation strategies



Approach and Project Considerations

- Consider existing research (RETI, CPUC, CEC, WECC/NREL integration study, others)
- Considerations:
 - Interstate competition for resources, transmission planning
 - Regional policy and generation sector context
 - Siting, licensing, and construction constraints
 - Land use, water, tourism, and other environmental impacts
 - Interaction/coordination with other California agencies



Project Analysis Considerations

- Generally impacts are measured against existing physical conditions at the time analysis is commenced
- Existing RPS specifies 20% by 2010
- Many projects completed, pending approval, and under construction
- Analysis will identify increment of impact from both existing conditions and from 20% RPS



Considerations of Out-of-State Impacts

- PRC Section 21080(b)(14) and CCR Section 15277
- CEQA does not apply out of state as long as NEPA or other similar state environmental law applies
- Implies that impacts resulting from discretionary action by a California agency shall be evaluated
- Non-CEQA or NEPA assessments pursuant to permitting processes and other state or federal laws



Environmental Issue Areas

- Programmatic analysis of:
 - Greenhouse gas impacts
 - Air quality
 - Land use
 - Water quality and hydrology
 - Biology and natural resources
 - Cultural resources
 - Visual impacts
- Environmental Justice
- Performance-based mitigation measures



Public and Agency Input

- Open Scoping Session
- If you wish to comment, add name and affiliation to our sign-in sheet
- Please state your name and affiliation for the record
- We will capture your comments for the record and to assist us in determining the scope and content of the FED

